

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 31-47 remain pending.

Applicants have amended independent claims 31 and 32 to delete the word "exterior" preceding the first and second surface regions. The reason for this change is that a surface region which may carry one of the homogeneous layers may be on an interior surface such as, for example, the outer and inner surfaces of bearings as disclosed in paragraph [0003] of the Substitute Specification, second indented paragraph. By deleting the word "exterior" from the claims, it is made clear that the homogeneous layers, though on outer surfaces of the objects, could be viewed as an "interior" surface, rather than an exterior surface.

Applicants submit that this change does not affect the allowability of the claims over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request an early allowance of this application.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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